

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

THE BAHAMA BARN OWL.

BY J. H. RILEY.

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When writing the bird report on the birds collected upon the Geographic Society of Baltimore's expedition to the Bahamas, I prepared some remarks upon a specimen of the Barn Owl shot at Nassau, but when copying my paper to send to *The Auk*,* through an unaccountable oversight they were entirely omitted. Mr. Ridgway with the addition of two Bahaman specimens in the collection of Outram Bangs, kindly loaned him for study, has called my attention to the fact that the Bahaman bird differs from that of the eastern United States and has kindly permitted me to describe it. It may be known as:

Tyto perlatus lucayanus subsp. nov.

Type, U. S. National Museum, No. 189,671, adult male, New Providence, Bahamas, June 30, 1903. Collected by J. H. Riley (original No. 50).

Subspecific characters.—Similar to *Tyto perlatus pratincola*, but with less amount of the grayish black-vermiculated tipped feathers of the upper parts.

Description.—Top of head, neck, and upper back tawny ochraceous with a few blackish spots or mottlings and some minute grayish white spots along the shaft of the feathers; feathers of the interscapular region, grayish basally, tawny ochraceous subterminally with irregular black mottlings, and grayish terminally with black vermiculations and with a white shaft spot near the tip; rump and upper-tail coverts tawny ochraceous with a few black markings and minute white spots along the shaft; bend of wing tawny ochraceous with black markings and small white spots along the shaft; rest of wing-coverts largely tawny ochraceous, with black spots, some of the feathers grayish terminally with black vermiculations and a white shaft spot near the tip, the primary

* XXII, 1905, pp. 349-360.

coverts deepening into rather deep tawny externally with black mottlings along the outer web and tip and a whitish shaft spot terminally and with indications of interrupted black bars along the shaft; flight feathers ochraceous-buff on the outer web and along the shaft, white internally, the ochraceous-buff deeper on the primaries and lighter on the secondaries, with minute black fleckings on the outer web and tip, and with interrupted black bars along the shaft; under wing-coverts white with a few small black spots; tail ochraceous-buff with irregular black bars and black fleckings towards the tip, the inner webs of all the tail feathers, except the middle pair, mostly white, the outer feathers entirely white without bars, the two distally only indicated by small black spots along the shaft and with a few obscure fleckings near the tip; face white, with a slight vinaceous tinge, this latter color deepening into liver brown just above the eye, forming a prominent mark; the feathers of the ruff white tipped with tawny or tawny ochraceous and from just forwards of the eye around under the chin terminally edged with black; the lower jugulum, breast, and sides ochraceous-buff, with minute black dots which also extend upon the upper abdomen; remaining underparts white; thighs light ochraceous-buff externally, white internally. Wing, 324; tail, 135; culmen from cere, 22; tarsus, 74; middle toe, 40 mm.

Remarks.—The type differs from the other Bahaman specimens before me in being much deeper colored above, the ochraceous-buff on the breast, and in some other particulars, which on account of the great variation in birds of this genus are not worth mentioning. From *Tyto perlatus pratincola* the Bahaman bird does not seem to differ much in size. The average in millimetres of a small series is given below:

Males.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.
Five from eastern United States	338.4	143.8	22.3
Two from the Bahamas	326.5	133.7	22
Females.			
Five from the eastern United States	343.4	146.4	23.2
Two from the Bahamas	354	144	23.2